

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Official Action dated April 23, 2007, wherein Claims 10-20 were rejected for indefiniteness, Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-13, and 15-20 were rejected over prior art, and Claims 5, 8, and 14 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. The specification was objected to because the abstract should be on a separate sheet. Claims 8 and 14 have been rewritten in independent form. Claims 1, 8, 10, and 14 have been amended. Claim 5 has been cancelled. Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Official Action rejected Claims 10-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Particularly, it is alleged that while the preamble is pertinent to fingerprinting, it is unclear how the method relates to fingerprinting because no method step for fingerprinting detection is recited. Although Applicants do not acquiesce in the rejection, for purposes of expediting prosecution, Claim 10 has been amended in a manner which should obviate the rejection and place Claim 10 in condition for allowance.

The Official Action also rejected Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-13 and 15-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the Admitted State of the Prior Art (ASPA), set forth in the specification, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,559,923 to Robelen. Although Applicants do not acquiesce in the rejection, for purposes of expediting prosecution, Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation of allowable Claim 5. Claims 8, 10, and 14 have been rewritten in independent form

including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The amendments should obviate the rejection and place Claims 1, 8, 10, and 14, and all claims dependent thereon, in condition for allowance.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that she be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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